

September 29, 2005

Melanie Barton
Program Coordinator
Education Oversight Committee
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Ms. Barton:

I welcome the opportunity to provide information to the EIA Programs and Mechanisms Subcommittee of the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) on the services provided by the South Carolina Educational Policy Center (SCEPC) as requested by the General Assembly in Proviso 1A.22 of the 2005-2006 state budget.

Proviso 1A.22 provides \$100,000 to the SCEPC "for collaborative projects with the Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee to provide research based information and consultation services on technical issues related to establishing a more thorough accountability system for public schools, school districts, and the K-12 education system." Representatives from the SCEPC, the State Department of Education (SDE), and the EOC work collaboratively to determine the scope of work during the fiscal year. Previous studies by the SCEPC have included research on the academic planning provision of the accountability act, summer school programs in the state, and the teacher specialist program.

During the past year, the SCEPC conducted a study on participants in the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program who are repaying their loans rather than having the loans cancelled by working in a critical needs content or geographical area. This study was requested by the EOC because program data reviewed by the EOC indicated that a large proportion of loan recipients were repaying their loans. Questionnaires were mailed to individuals currently repaying or recently completing repayment as identified by the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation. Analyses of the questionnaire data showed that approximately 41% of the respondents were currently teaching. For the 114 teachers working in South Carolina, it was found that 55.7% of the teachers actually qualified for loan cancellation. Teachers in this group reported that they had not pursued loan cancellation for a number of reasons including confusion about eligibility

criteria, paperwork requirements, or other aspects of the cancellation process. The SCEPC made several recommendations to address the findings of the study.

The research services provided by the SCEPC do not fit the usual pattern of EIA “programs.” SCEPC staff provides direct research, research-based information, and technical assistance services to the General Assembly, the EOC, and the SDE as directed by the General Assembly. All of the work is in response to requests from members of the project team and their staffs as issues develop over time. The collaborative project team determines the direction, objectives, and actions of the scope of work. For these reasons, a plan and budget request for fiscal year 2006-2007 are not included in this submission.

The project provides a unique opportunity for representatives of independent agencies to come together to discuss technical issues critical to the implementation and refinement of the state’s accountability system. As we continue the process of implementing the accountability act and possibly making some legislative adjustments or improvements, ongoing discussion and a shared understanding of relevant issues will continue to be critical to our success. The SCEPC would welcome the opportunity to continue the collaborative work of this project.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Monrad, Ph.D.
Director

Attachment

**EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06
And
Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2006-07**

EIA PROGRAM NAME: South Carolina Educational Policy Center

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Program Director: Diane M. Monrad, Ph.D.

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PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Program Fiscal Officer/Contact: Steve Mattison, Budget Director

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PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT: Diane M. Monrad

Signature:

Date:

September 29, 2005

Fiscal Year 2005-06 EIA Program Report

EIA Program Name: South Carolina Educational Policy Center

The purpose of this report is to determine the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives during the prior fiscal year. The report also requests information on the objectives of the program during the current fiscal year. Please answer the following questions and provide quantifiable results when available.

Effectiveness Measures: (See attached definition of terms and directions)

- 1. What were the objectives of this program during Fiscal Year 2004-05?**

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

- 2. Were the Fiscal Year 2004-05 objectives met? Please provide specific, quantifiable data and explanations.**

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

- 3. What are the objectives of this program in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2005-06? Explain how, if any, the objectives have changed from the prior fiscal year and why.**

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

- 4. What measures or data will be used to assess the effectiveness of this program in meeting its objectives for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2005-06?**

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

5. What measurable actions will be taken to assure that the program objectives of the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2005-06, will be met?

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

Fiscal Year 2006-07 EIA Budget Request

EIA Program Name: South Carolina Educational Policy Center

Information provided below will be used by the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee in recommending funding levels for this EIA program in Fiscal Year 2006-07 and in any proviso changes.

(1) FY 2005-06

Base Appropriation: \$ 100,000

(2) FY 2006-07 Total Amount Requested:

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

_____ % Increase Requested over FY 2005-06 Base

_____ % Decrease Requested over FY 2005-06 Base

(3) Cost Estimates for Increase or Decrease in Funding for FY 2006-07

Not applicable.

(4) Detailed justification for increase, decrease or maintenance of funding

Based upon the total budget request for Fiscal Year 2006-07, what would be the program objectives for this program? Explain how the proposed increase, decrease or maintenance of funding affects the current program objectives.

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

(5) **Detailed Justification for any additional FTEs Requested.**

Not applicable. (See attached letter.)

Fiscal Year 2006-07 EIA Budget Request Continued

(6) **Please complete the following chart which will provide detailed budget and expenditure history.**

| Funding Sources | 2003-04 Actual | 2004-05 Actual | 2005-06 Estimated | 2006-07 Requested |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| EIA | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | |
| General Fund | | | | |
| Lottery | | | | |
| Fees | | | | |
| Other Sources | | | | |
| Grant | | | | |
| Contributions, Foundation | | | | |
| Other (Specify) | | | | |
| Sequester | (4,539) | | | |
| | | | | |
| Carry Forward from Prior Year | | | | |
| TOTAL: | 95,461 | 100,000 | 100,000 | |

| Expenditures | 2003-04 Actual | 2004-05 Actual | 2005-06 Estimated | 2006-07 Anticipated |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personal Service | 81,052 | 64,891 | 83,950 | |
| Supplies & Materials | 622 | 687 | 650 | |
| Contractual Services | 1,163 | 1,638 | 400 | |
| Equipment | | | | |
| Fixed Charges | | 766 | 800 | |
| Travel | | | | |
| Allocations to Districts/Schools | | | | |
| Employer Contributions | | | | |
| Other: Please explain | | | | |
| Fringe | 10,086 | 9,230 | 14,200 | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|---------|--|
| | | | | |
| Carry Forward to Prior Year | | | | |
| TOTAL: | 92,923 | 77,212 | 100,000 | |
| # FTES | | | | |

Fiscal Year 2006-07 EIA Budget Request Continued

Proviso Changes: Please indicate any additions, deletions or amendments to existing provisos below:

A. Proviso Number: IA.22

B. Action (Indicate Amend, Delete, or Add): We would welcome the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education.

C. Summary of Existing or New Proviso: The existing proviso states: "...Provided further, for the current fiscal year, \$100,000 shall be provided to the South Carolina Educational Policy Center for collaborative projects with the Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee to provide research based information and consultation services on technical issues related to establishing a more thorough accountability system for public schools, school districts, and the K-12 system."

D. Explanation of Amendment to/or Deletion of Existing Proviso: Not applicable.

E. Justification (Why is this action necessary?): Not applicable.

F. Fiscal Impact (Include impact on all sources of funds -- state, federal, and other): Not applicable.

G. Submitted By (Include agency name submitting change, contact name and telephone number): Not applicable.

H. Text of New Proviso with Underline or Entire Existing Proviso Text with Strikeover and Underline: Not applicable